

A dynamic photograph capturing a moment of intense cheering at a nighttime soccer match. In the center, a male soccer player with dark hair and a beard is looking upwards with his mouth open, likely shouting or singing. He wears a white short-sleeved jersey with a dark emblem on the chest featuring a stylized 'P' and 'Y'. A small 'JOMA' logo is visible on the right shoulder. To his left, a fan's arm is raised high, holding a black smartphone to record the scene. The background is filled with other spectators, some with their hands raised in excitement. The sky above is dark with bright stadium lights illuminating the scene.

RNY FC 2023 Program

Presented by North Star Ultras

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Welcome to our season program

I don't know about you, but I considered 2022 to be a success. Here's a quick synopsis of how we got to where we are: Before the 2016 season, the Dworkins were announced as the new owners of the club. That season, they lost \$1.7 million on the club. Attendances were even smaller in 2017, and on November 30, 2017 it was announced the club would go on hiatus the next season. That "next season" became multiple years. In 2021, Premier League superstar Jamie Vardy was announced as a new co-owner, and it was announced the team would be returning in 2022.

Sure, not everything came to be. There was a documentary series that was announced but never happened. There was supposed to be a US based location for his training academy, but that hasn't happened. But, we were back on the field. And, it didn't start well. The first 4 games left the newly branded RNY FC winless, however that was when things turned around. We won 4 games straight, followed by 3 draws and a loss, followed by 3 more wins. This saw us make it into the playoffs, selling out every home game, and installing more seating to increase capacity, and generally having a great atmosphere. From a fan's perspective, it was a success.

This program was not put out by the club. This program was put out by fans, for fans. While we are people that love the history of the Rochester Rhinos and the memories it gave us, and we will support RNY FC, the club has had no input on it. We will be fair, but also critical. This will not be a program of old, full of ads and puff pieces. It has the content that we want to read, and we hope you want to as well. The people who worked on it are members of the North Star Ultras. Come down and see us, say hi, and join us for a game.

These are our contributors. They're mostly cool. Some are lame.

- Unofficial Club Historian Stats - Rick (@RhinosArchive)
- Unofficial Club Historian Facts - Matt (@AllTheRage1996)
- Director of Anti-Terrorism - Mike (@StillOnAIM)
- The News Guy - Bryce (@RNYFCNews)
- Because I had room to fill - Christian (@casualchristian)



The Origins of the Rhinos

In October 1995, the American Professional Soccer League awarded a team to the city of Rochester, New York. The team, which did not have a name or a logo at the time of the announcement, would join the league in 1996 and be owned by the trio of Frank DuRoss, Steve Donner, and Chris Economides.

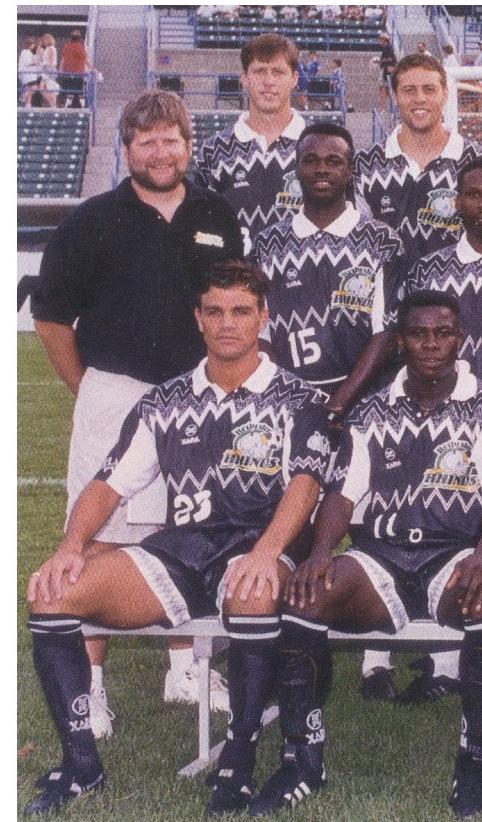
DuRoss, a businessman from Utica, New York and owner of the American Hockey League's Providence Bruins, would own 50% of the soccer team and serve as the team's president. Donner, a native of Rochester and the president/CEO of the American Hockey League's Rochester Americans, would own 40% of the team and serve as the team's CEO. DuRoss and Donner had originally met in 1992, and at the AHL's Board of Governors meeting in July 1995 Donner pitched the idea of a professional soccer team. Rounding out the ownership group was Economides, a lifelong resident of Rochester who had previously co-owned the Kansas City Attack of the National Professional Soccer League. Economides would own 10% of the team and serve as the team's vice president and general manager.

Ex-Rochester Lancers striker Pat Ercoli was hired to coach the new team. A native of Toronto, Canada, Ercoli played for the Lancers from 1978-1980 and settled in Rochester with his wife and family once his playing career ended. While Ercoli had coached at local community

colleges after his playing career ended, coaching the new Rochester team would be his first professional coaching assignment. Joining Ercoli on the sidelines as his assistant coach was another former Lancer, Frank Odoi. Odoi represented Ghana at the 1964 Olympics, and played for the Lancers from 1970-1978. Odoi was a member of the Lancers' 1970 NASL championship team, and was two-time team-MVP during his time with the team.

When it came to naming the team, a 'Name The Team' contest was held. 1,500 entrants suggested approximately 500 different names, and among the finalists were names such as Field Kats, Pioneers, Ragin' Rapids, Rampage, Rattlers,

Ravens, Renegades, Rhinos, River Kings, Rocers, and Thunder. On December 7, it was announced that the team would be known as the Rochester Raging Rhinos. According to Donner, the organization wanted a "unique, unconventional name we could have fun with" and "the rhino represents a



fierce, hard-charging animal. We feel the name will be very popular and we can give Frontier Field a jungle atmosphere." Ercoli shared Donner's opinion, and said "the rhino is a fierce, hard-charging animal. I hope when our team is backed into a corner, the players will come out fighting like rhinos."

The Rhinos' logo featured a snarling rhino piercing a soccer ball with its horn as management wanted the logo to symbolize the aggressive animal but also be a likable figure for kids. "We didn't want it to be too mean or too cuddly," said Donner.

Since there wasn't an expansion draft, the Rhinos had to build a roster from scratch. In January 1996, they signed their first players when they signed midfielder Andrew "Yogi" McKay, and defenders Marco Rizi and Enzo Concina. McKay's father had played for the Lancers, and the younger McKay would go on to spend three seasons as a fixture in the Rhinos' midfield.

The league, which rebranded as the A-League prior to the 1996 season, served as the second-tier on the soccer pyramid in the United States, right underneath the upstart MLS, and consisted of seven teams. Along with the Rhinos, the Atlanta Ruckus, the Colorado Foxes, the Montreal Impact, the New York Fever, the Seattle Sounders, and Vancouver 86ers would take part in the A-League in 1996.

Because Frontier Field, which had been built primarily for baseball, wouldn't be ready until July 1996, the Rhinos played their first four home games at Fauver Stadium, located on the campus of the University of Rochester. 5,834 fans were in attendance for the Rhinos' first game on May 10, when they hosted the New York Fever. After a pageantry-filled celebration prior to the game, the Rhinos fell behind 1-0 in the 12th minute before Danny Kelly scored the first goal in Rhinos history to tie the game just before halftime.



After regulation finished in a 1-1 tie, the Rhinos and Fever headed to a shootout, where the Fever took home the 2-1 win.

The Rhinos would drop their next three games to start the season 0-4 before they picked up their first win when they defeated the Vancouver 86ers 3-2 at Fauver Stadium on June 15. Hector Marinaro scored the game winning goal for the Rhinos that day, and he was proud of that accomplishment. “That’ll be something hopefully 20, 30 years from now the Rhinos will still be around and I’ll be there with my son and I can say, ‘I scored the first game-winner in that team’s history,’ said Marinaro.

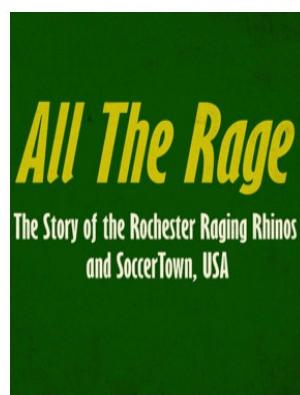
Although the Rhinos had recorded their first victory in franchise history, there were still more growing pains for them to endure. The Rhinos lost four out of their next five games, which dropped their record to 2-8, before they christened Frontier Field against the Montreal Impact on July 12, 1996. In front of an A-League record crowd of 14,717 fans, the Rhinos defeated Montreal 3-2 in thrilling fashion as they rallied from a 2-0 deficit thanks to a hat trick by Doug Miller, which was capped off in stoppage time of the second half.

The comeback win in Frontier Field’s inaugural sporting event seemingly turned the Rhinos season around as they finished the season 14-13 and claimed the fourth and final playoff spot. The Rhinos met the first-place Montreal Impact in the first-round of the playoffs, and defeated them two games to one in the best-of-three series to advance to the A-League Championship Game against the Seattle Sounders. Unfortunately, the Rhinos came up short in their quest for a league championship

as Seattle defeated them 2-0.

Outside of the A-League, the Rhinos also made a name for themselves in the U.S. Open Cup. After they defeated the Fort Myers Manatees of the USISL in the second-round, the Rhinos met the Tampa Bay Mutiny of MLS in the quarterfinals. The Rhinos defeated the Mutiny 4-3 in overtime and advanced to the semifinals, where they met the Colorado Rapids. Determined to show that their win over Tampa Bay wasn’t a fluke, the Rhinos defeated the Rapids 3-0 and advanced to the U.S. Open Cup final, where they met the MLS Cup champion D.C. United. Unfortunately, once again the Rhinos came up short in their quest for a championship in their inaugural season as they lost 3-0.

But although the Rhinos finished as the runners up in both the A-League and the U.S. Open Cup in their inaugural season, they still made a name for themselves in the American soccer landscape. The Rhinos averaged an A-League best 9,591 fans per game in 1996, and they even had feelers from MLS about potentially joining the United States’ top league one day.



If you like this article, make sure to check out the book *All The Rage: The Story of the Rochester Raging Rhinos and SoccerTown, USA*, available at North Star Ultra tailgate parties and online by emailing Matthew Buckley at 1996alltherage@gmail.com or by direct messaging him on Twitter @AllTheRage1996.

Date	Home	Score	Away	Attendance	Goals
05-10	Rochester	1-1 SO	New York	5,834	Kelly, McKay (P) (SO loss 3-1)
05-31	Rochester	1-1 SO	Seattle	5,261	Marinaro 58' (P) (SO loss 4-3)
06-09	Montreal	2-0	Rochester	5,344	
06-15	Rochester	0-0 SO	Montreal	5,038	SO loss 2-1
06-21	Rochester	3-2	Vancouver	4,594	Debrah 52', McKay 57', Marinaro 85'
06-27	Colorado	6-0	Rochester	1,176	
06-29	Seattle	1-0	Rochester	3,462	
07-05	Vancouver	3-2	Rochester	5,172	Steenkamp 14', Miller 77'
07-07	Atlanta	1-1 SO	Rochester	900	Miller 33' (SO win 3-2)
07-10	Montreal	3-0	Rochester	5,342	
07-12	Rochester	3-2	Montreal	14,717	Miller 43', 63', 90'
07-19	Rochester	2-0	New York	9,983	Miller 19', Kelly 87'
07-26	Rochester	3-1	Atlanta	12,331	Miller 16', 57', 87'
08-03	Rochester	2-1	Seattle	13,142	Miller 65', Debrah 73'
08-07	Rochester	1-2	Vancouver	9,821	Debrah 42'
08-10	New York*	2-2 SO	Rochester	7,126	Steenkamp 4', Miller 77' (SO win 3-1)
08-14	Seattle	2-0	Rochester	2,587	
08-16	Vancouver	0-1	Rochester	4,093	Steenkamp 44'
08-18	Colorado	5-2	Rochester	3,879	Debrah 67', Miller 89'
08-21	Rochester	0-0 SO	Colorado	11,196	SO win 2-1
08-25	Rochester	3-2	New York	10,664	Gutierrez 20', Rivas 72', Miller 86'
08-30	Rochester	8-2	Atlanta	11,311	Miller 44', 50', 82', Tanner 13', Rivas 28', Gutierrez 40', Young 63', Steenkamp 89'
09-01	Atlanta	0-4	Rochester	926	Young 17', 54', 56', Miller 82'
09-04	Montreal	2-1	Rochester	3,987	Gutierrez 72'
09-11	Rochester	1-0	Montreal	8,128	Steenkamp 81'
09-13	Rochester	0-1	Colorado	12,249	
09-14	New York	0-3	Rochester	2,465	Marinaro 50', 62', Miller 78'
Total	Wins: 11, Losses 13, Shoot Out Wins: 3			180,728	

*New York was the home team, but game was in Rochester

Date	Home	Score	Away	Attendance	Goals
09-19	Montreal	2-3	Rochester	3,691	Steenkamp 4', Miller 5', Villagra 72'
09-21	Rochester	0-3	Montreal	14,809	
09-25	Montreal	1-2	Rochester	3,317	Rivas 26' (pen), 55'
10-06	Seattle	2-0	Rochester	7,027	
Total				28,844	Win: 2, Loss: 2



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Builders, Inc

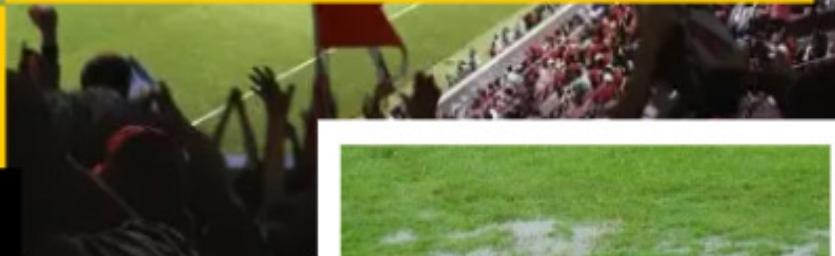
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*number not actually in service, as it's another thing that was forgotten about



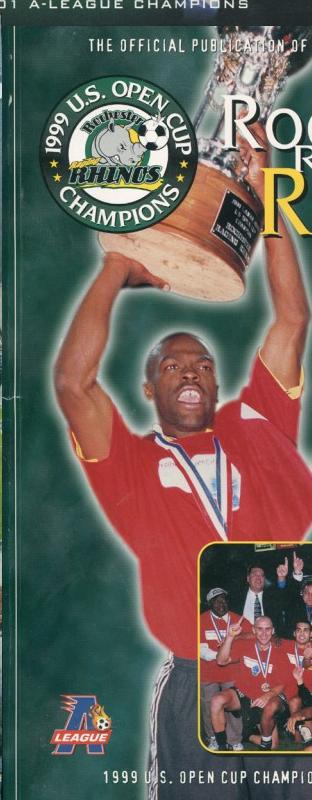
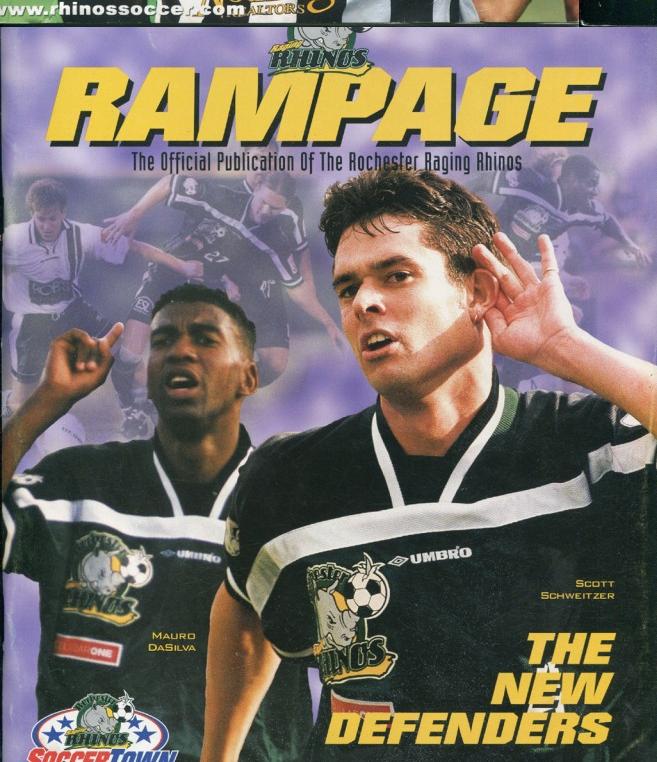
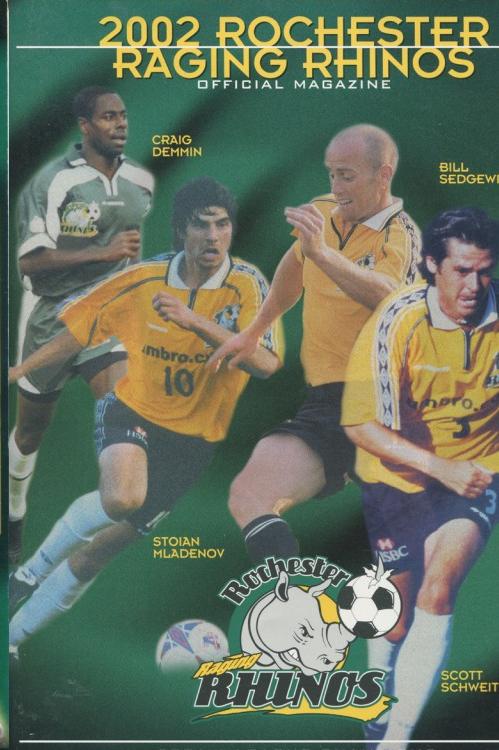
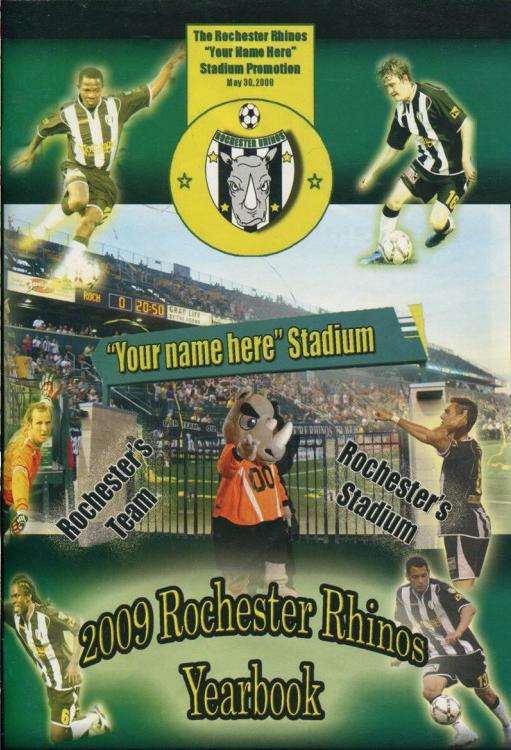
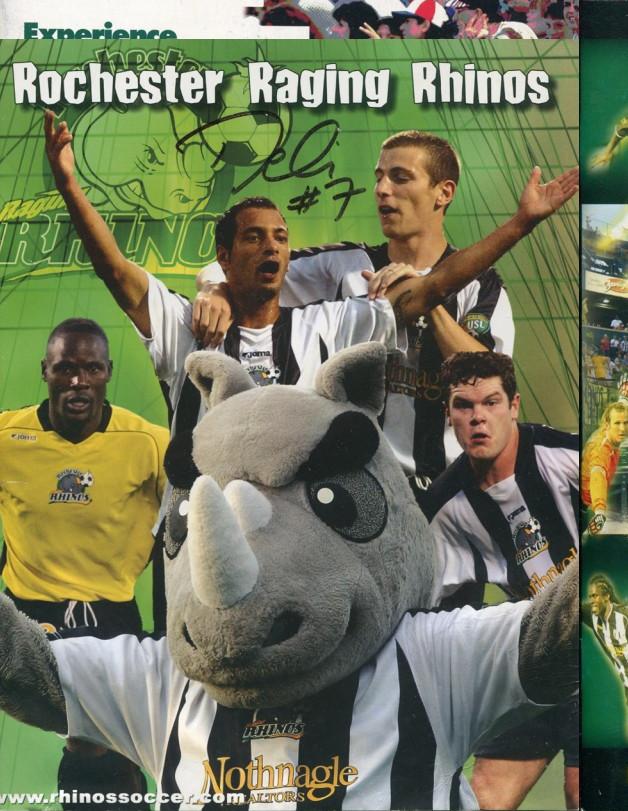
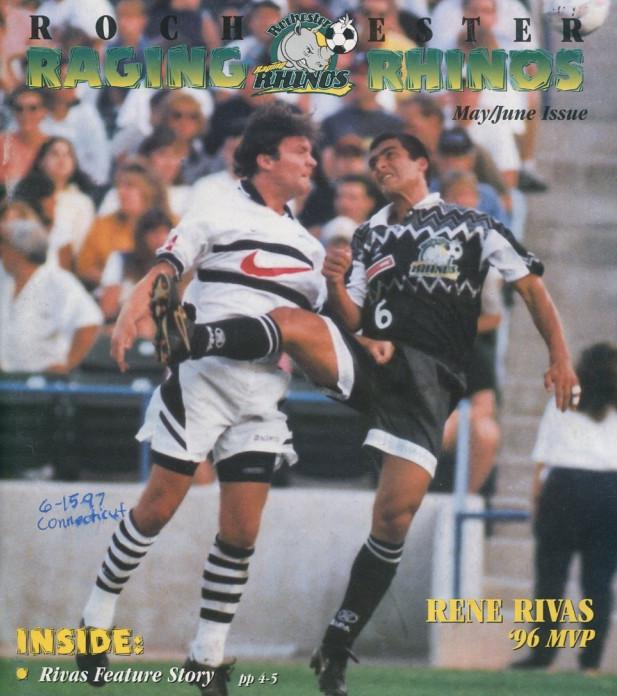
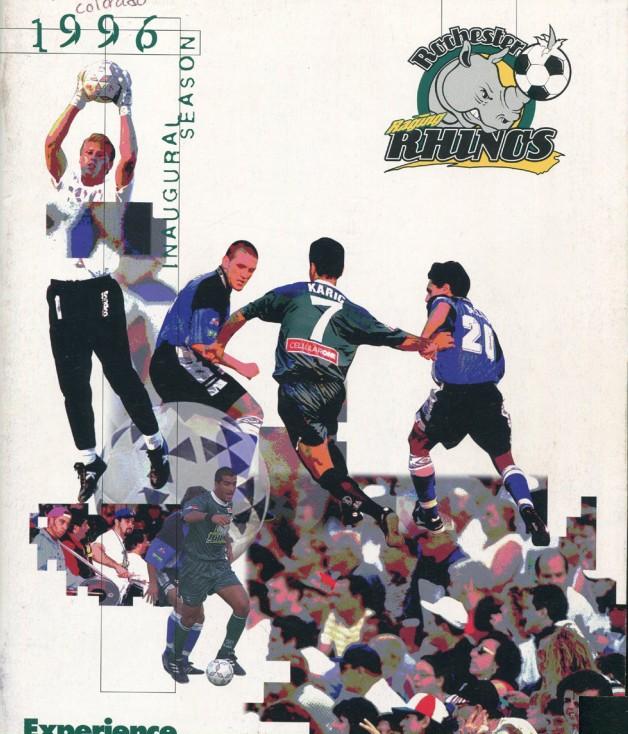
ROCHESTER LEGENDS

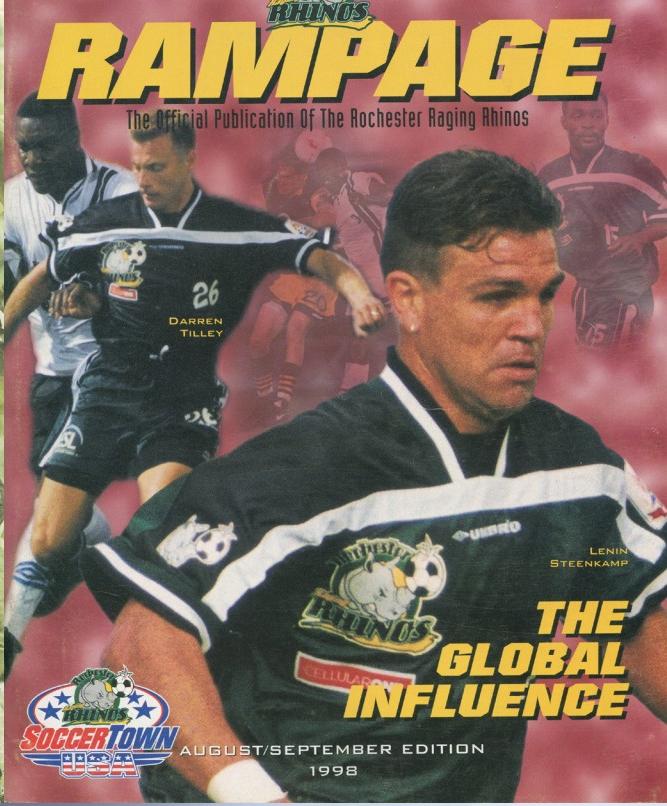
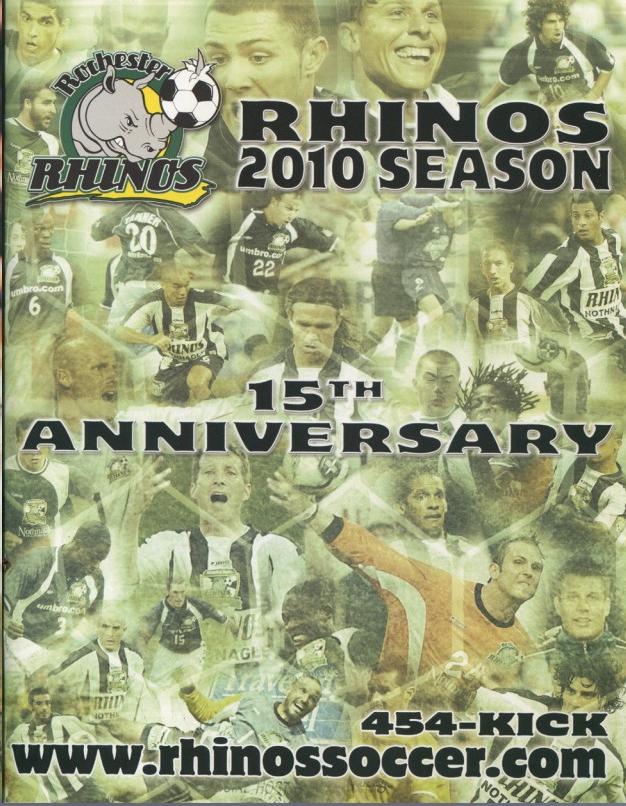


For the first induction to the Hall of Rochester Legends, this season's nomination is Derrek Chan. He didn't allow a single goal in his entire time in the Flower City. He truly is a world class player.



Club legend Derrek "Santos" Chan walks into the sunset, ending his illustrious time with Rochester NY FC. When asked about his time here, he stated "The greatest challenges often become the best things in our lives!"

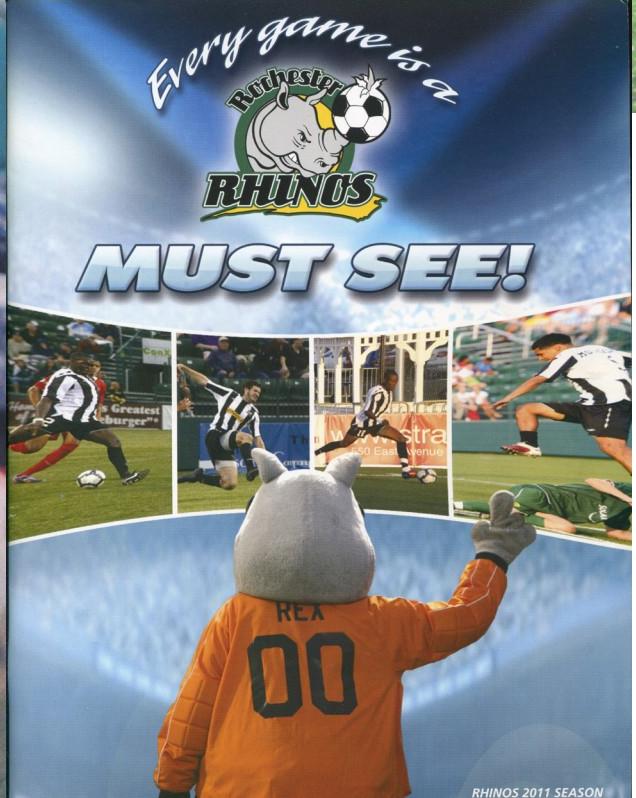
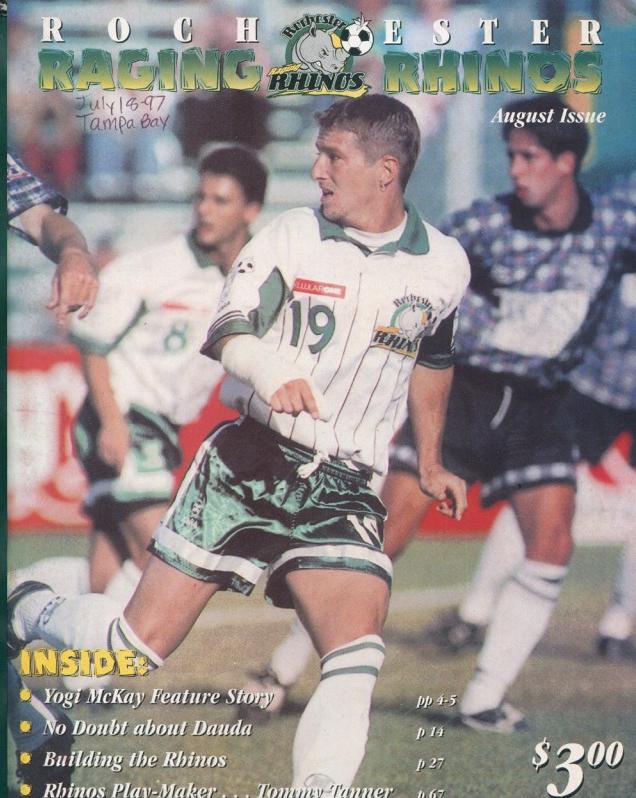
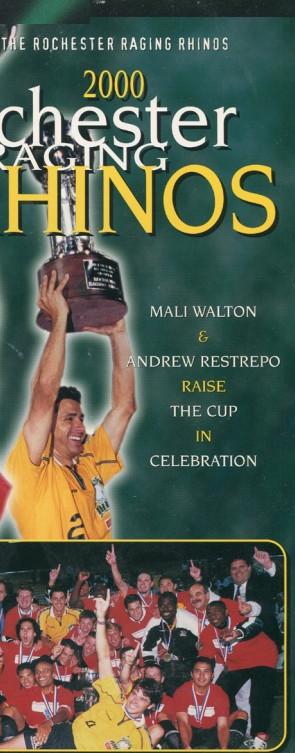




Programs through the years

Over the years one of the best things about entering the stadium, be it Frontier or Pae-Tec Park (or one of its other names), was buying a Rhinos program at the home opener, and buying a Stampede Sheet at the rest of the games. Sadly, with the Rhinos name, these are traditions that are no longer. And that is why we at NSU are bringing them back, although in a digital-only format. Times have changed, people don't want paper.

I hope you enjoy our hard work and our ode to times gone by.





Rhinos Rewind

June 30, 2009

If there's anything that people know about the Rochester Rhinos, it must be the US Open Cup win of 1999. While they will be forever associated with that performance, it's been covered often, and by better people than me. In this inaugural issue's Rhinos Rewind, I'd like to talk about a game from ten years later.

June 30, 2009 was a warm night in Rochester. The problem is, while it seemed to be nice out, clouds were brewing. Still, there were an announced 6,098 fans who made the trek out to Marina Auto Stadium to see our beloved Rhinos facing off against the MLS' Columbus Crew. While winning regular season games undoubtedly the focus for most teams, nothing can get fans as excited as an Open Cup run. The ability to play against, and potentially beat, those from the higher divisions is what gives the Cup its excitement.

Prior to the 2009 match-up, we had faced Columbus twice before. In our first meeting in 1998, it took Columbus until extra time to defeat us, even though we were a man short due to a Scott Schweitzer red card in the 79th minute. In a rematch the following season, Rochester dispatched the Crew on their way to winning it all. Having both defeated each other once, Columbus fielded a weaker team than their starters, as was understandable. MLS clubs don't generally start their full team against a lower division club, but that doesn't mean either team is going to be a pushover. While facing an MLS team that's not full strength may be a bright side, the fact that our starting keeper, Scott Vallow, was injured must have evened it out.

What makes this game unique in the history of the Rhinos, is that it started over an hour late. While the weather was warm, there was also thunder and lightning. Rather than canceling the match, we did the unsafe thing and fans gathered under the giant metal bleachers to wait it out. Surely a large number of fans from the announced attendance must have left, as it would be quite hard to fit over 6,000 people underneath the bleachers, but it made for an interesting pregame. When the Rhinos finally took the stage, we went ahead in the 32nd minute. Johnny Menyonger, our team MVP for the 2008 and 2009 seasons, juked a defender and served it into the middle of the box. Ty Hardin, who would make only 3 appearances on loan for the club spun and shot, without even taking a touch, and slammed it home. Sadly, playing only one league game, Hardin was then carried off the pitch in the follow-up Cup loss, breaking his ankle in the knockout to DC.

The Rhinos were not ahead for long though. There are a lot of beautiful ways to score a goal, but the most visually impressive is surely the bicycle kick. Only 5 minutes later, the Crew tied it up on a beautiful bicycle kick Duncan Oughton. He served the ball up to himself, and slotted it home with a bicycle kick, even doing so much as to angle it away from our backup keeper, Tim Melia. As the radio commentary of the time put it, "no one was stopping that".

In what was so far an even contest, Alex Gandri of Columbus received his second yellow card 10

minutes into the second half, putting the Crew down a man for the remainder. Unfortunately, the resulting penalty kick was aimed perfectly to the bottom corner, but the keeper somehow got a hand on it and knocked it wide. And there we would stay. Through the remainder of regulation, even though we had the man advantage, we couldn't seal a win. The same went for extra time. Still, the Rhinos couldn't see it out.

And then came penalties, surely the most exciting aspect of the sport. The game had seen it all, and was going to see more. By this point, it was a weeknight, the game started over an hour late, there had been goals, a red card, and was ending much later than intended, with a shootout to come. Most of the crowd had gone home by this point. Those that remained (I'm sure my memory is faulty, I remember it to be a couple hundred, but it was probably more) moved to the end of the stadium to watch the kicks up close. The Rhinos and Crew both started with two goals apiece, so the game remained tied. Andrew Gregor made up for his regulation penalty kick miss, when put the third home, putting the Rhinos in the driving seat. But here's where Tim Melia, our backup keeper, really won us the game. He dove to the right on Columbus' third kick, the same direction of the shot. And he got a hand on it. Unfortunately, the ball didn't stop. Time seemed to slow down as the ball slowly rolled to the other side with Melia scrambling after it. Thankfully, he got there before it drifted over the line, and the Rhinos were up 3-2. Another round of shots, another round of goals.

So far, the Rhinos had put all 4 shots they took to the left, and had put all 4 in, even when the Columbus keeper guessed correctly. But with our 5th attempt, a goal that would seal it. Ryan Heins stepped to the spot, and shot the ball to the right. He said after the game that it had nothing to do with the fact that the prior 4 had gone left, that he was always going right. The Crew keeper

also went the way of the ball, and got a hand on it. But it went in. And the Rhinos advanced.

It didn't matter that Rochester was knocked out of the US Open Cup in their follow-up to this game. What makes memories is the times you kill the giant and beat someone from a higher league. The fact that the game was delayed by lightning and the crowd hung out under the stands together, waiting to cheer on their team, only made the penalties and the win more special.

Columbus Crew vs. Rochester Rhinos														
Date/time: Tuesday, June 30th, 2009 7:00 pm EDT									Location: Marina Auto Stadium, Rochester NY					
Weather: Rain									Attendance: 6,098					
GOALS														
Columbus	1	0	0	0	1	FOULS								
Rochester	1	0	0	0	1	Columbus	7	10	2	1	20			
SHOTS														
Columbus	4	3	2	1	10	Rochester	8	5	3	3	19			
Rochester	5	6	0	3	14	OFFSIDES								
SAVES														
Columbus	2	2	0	1	5	Columbus	2	0	0	0	2			
Rochester	2	2	1	0	5	Rochester	2	1	0	2	5			
REFEREE														
ASST. REFEREE	Shane Moody													
ASST. REFEREE	Steve Montaino													
4TH OFFICIAL	Scott Bonifice													
POS # STARTERS														
D	4	BERTZ, Kenney				MIN	G	A	S	F				
D	5	SANCHO, Brent				120					2			
D	13	BALL, John				57					1			
D	30	HARDEN, Ty				120					3			
M	11	HEINS, Ryan				120	1				2			
M	12	GREGOR, Andrew				120					1			
M	17	NURSE, Chris				120					2			
M	21	AMBERSLEY, Mike				105					1			
F	10	MENYONGAR, Johnny				120		1	5		2			
F	29	ATIENO, Taiwo				96					2			
POS # SUBSTITUTES														
D	22	KENTON, Darren				53					1			
M	2	SARKODIE, Kwame				15					1			
F	8	SALLES, Mauricio				24					1			
G=Goals, A=Assists, S=Shots, F=Fouls														
POS	#	GOALKEEPERS				MIN	SHFC	SAVES	GA					
GK	1	MELIA, Tim				120	10	5	1					
										10	5			

For daily statistics on Rhinos teams of old, follow me on Twitter at RhinosArchive. All of the historical Rochester Rhinos statistics are being tweeted out, and are also being built into a website which will be hosted by North Star Ultras (including footage and audio that still exists). Follow us for more information on when it launches



WHO RUNS THIS SOCIAL MEDIA?

TheCup.us
@usopencup

Three weeks without a social media post raises some eyebrows, especially after letting the coaching staff go and some players. Anybody heard from them?
#USOC2023

Jake Mountain @JakeMountain...

Replies to @rnyfcofficial
We were a playoff team making a fan, we're out 2 coaches our goalkeeper our to live

1

1

2



Bryce Stanton @BryceLStanton · Jan 20

Replies to @rnyfcofficial
admin, are we still alive?

1

1

1



Christian Martin @casualchristian...

Replies to @rnyfcofficial
dvdworkin are we h-

FULLTIME

Rochester New York FC @rnyfcofficial · Aug 21, 2022

Who's your vote for Man of the Match?



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CONTACT US:
Yeah, good luck

I was lucky enough to sit down with the Rhinos' long-time mascot and most famous fan, Rex. This exclusive interview catches up with him to see how he's been and to hear about his career.

It's great to finally meet you, Rex. What have you been doing these last few years?

Well, I still try to meet virtually with my other mascot friends. I've been having a lot of online zoo meetings.

Sounds like you've been busy, even though you've been out of work for a while?

Yeah, but I'm not doing so hot financially. I can't stop charging things. I sure am glad that RNY FC have asked for my services.

We didn't know you were back. The last time we saw you, you weren't wearing any of your RNY FC gear.

You know what they say, rhinos are just horny hippopotamuses.

Oh, come on Rex. This is a family magazine.

Oh, I get it. You like my friends, but not me. You're fine with elephants and rhinos, but now you're just being hippo critical.

Are you just here to make bad puns?

Rhino every pun possible, so I guess I may share some.

Ok, this terrible interview is over.





Rochester New York FC

@rnyfcofficial

...

Watch here for an exciting announcement tonight

5:40 PM · Nov 30, 2022







The Legend of Matthew Barnes-Homer

First and foremost, let me start off by saying that I'm a stats guy. It truly matters to me whether someone played in 4 games or 5 in 1983, and whether the attendance at that game was 4,382 or 4,283. And that's why when researching statistics of the Rochester Rhinos, it was shocking to come across a player that no one seemed to talk about anymore. This is the story of Matthew Barnes-Homer. I don't write this to ruin a career or lay out accusations. Originally, I was going to give the benefit of the doubt and not name the player, however I feel like I have enough reason to believe it's warranted.

You can say that the Rochester Rhinos has a pretty good history. However, after new owners and a hiatus of 4 years, their historical statistics just no longer existed. I felt it was up to me to dig in and spend dozens of hours so that they weren't lost forever. That's when I came across a player who wasn't just good, he was great. And here's the thing: he just came out of nowhere and vanished. We've had some good players over the years, but if someone scores 10 goals in a season, that's a special feat that didn't happen too often. Then there was Matthew Barnes-Homer, who Wikipedia stated scored 20 goals in 25 games for us in 2004. It's not only that, he then played for two more American teams that year, scoring 29 goals in 20 games for Syracuse, and 19 in 10 games for Virginia Beach, before finishing the year at Aldershot with 10 goals in 10 games. That's a hell of a year. We all know Wikipedia isn't the most reliable resource, but there are multiple websites

that cite his time in the United States. There's even an article in The Guardian about him where he states "Yeah, years ago when I left Wolves [where it's stated he spent his youth career], I played there in the A-league for a few teams so it was good experience for me – the agent I had at the time got me the move over." Just remember this statement and this "agent".

Senior career*		
Years	Team	Apps (Gls)
2004	Rochester Raging Rhinos	25 (20)
2004	Syracuse Salty Dogs	20 (29)
2004	Virginia Beach Mariners	10 (15)
2004	Aldershot Town	10 (10)
2005	Hednesford Town	
2005–2006	Bromsgrove Rovers	24 (4)
2006	Tividale	
2006–2007	Willenhall Town	(15)
2007	Wycombe Wanderers	10 (3)
2007–2010	Kidderminster Harriers	98 (45)
2009	→ Luton Town (loan)	10 (15)
2010–2012	Luton Town	64 (40)
2011–2012	→ Rochdale (loan)	5 (1)
2012	Nuneaton Town	4 (0)
2012	Östersunds FK	11 (5)
2012–2013	Macclesfield Town	37 (29)
2013–2014	Forest Green Rovers	18 (15)
2014	Cambridge United	14 (10)
2014	→ Tamworth (loan)	7 (1)
2014	Whitehawk	9 (0)
2014	→ Macclesfield Town (loan)	6 (10)
2014–2015	Macclesfield Town	24 (10)
2015–2016	Aldershot Town	15 (5)
2015	→ Kidderminster Harriers (loan)	7 (7)
2016	Farnborough	5 (0)
2016	Wilmington Hammerheads	29 (15)
2017	Brackley Town	1 (0)
2017	Kettering Town	0 (0)
2017–2021	AFC Telford United	20 (1)
2017	Halesowen Town (dual reg.)	3 (0)
2021	Stourbridge (dual reg.)	1 (0)
2022–	Bromsgrove Sporting	6 (2)

So what does the research turn up? Well, in the multiple books I have from that period on Rochester's statistics, his brief and

amazing career is never mentioned. Going through game results, it's never once covered in the newspapers or blogs that he had scored a goal for us. Going through and tallying all the results, there are not any unaccounted-for goals, much less 20. Well, it could have been a mistake, someone once had the wrong player or the wrong team. But what about those other two American teams that were played for? It appears he did play for Syracuse, but 29 goals in 10 games is far from the official tally from the league's website of 1 goal in 10 games. Still, that could have been a typo adding a zero, but it wasn't a surprise that he never played a minute for Virginia Beach. It got harder to verify Aldershot, but as there wasn't a "credited" high-scoring number of goals it didn't bother me, and by the 2005 season they definitely did not list him as a player.

Rather than review every team, I felt there were some easier ones to verify. A loan to Luton Town did happen in 2009, however it was definitely not 15 goals in 10 games, but a still respectable 4 goals in 8 games. There's a supposed spell at Kidderminster from 2007-2010. During that time was the 2009 spell to Luton. According to Kidderminster's website in November of 2009, where his stats supposedly are 45 goals in 98 games, he had by that point played in 83 games for the club. And he had 27 goals over those 3 seasons of appearances. While it is conceivable by the time his tenure with the club ended at the end of the 2009-10 season he had the goals tally that is claimed, it's highly suspicious based on prior research that the season ended with 15 more goals in 18 games. He then went back to Luton from 2010 to 2012. This spell was to be one of the greatest that was played according to the Wikipedia page. While I am not confident in my facts at this time, as we know Wikipedia cannot be relied upon, it also includes the most outlandish

statistics claims. And for once, it does seem to be correct. The 2010-11 season at Luton it appeared he was their top scorer. It would appear he scored 28 goals over this spell; not the 40 that are claimed, but these are still good numbers. The thing that I find strange is that these numbers are so inflated. It's not like he was a poor player, it's just constantly making everything bigger. After bouncing around to seemingly two dozen teams over the years, he returned to where it all started in 2016, going back to America with the Wilmington Hammerheads. I can't find exact stats, and it does appear he played here, however his "credited" 15 goals are certainly not accurate, as the tenth top scorer in the league only had 11 goals, and he's not credited on that top 10 list.

Why does this all matter? Why am I picking on someone player-coaching in the sixth tier of English football? The fact is, it really doesn't matter. It's the playing on the field that really matters, and from what I can see, he's been a good player. The problem is the long time pattern of fraud. What began as research into our local club, ended up with sending a couple requests through social media to get an answer to this. And I was ignored when I tried to get his side of the story. And that's where it ends, right? Well, the good thing about our small town club in the US is that our co-owner is Jamie Vardy. What this means is that we have British supporters. As a joke, we asked one if he knew Matthew Barnes-Homer and could ask him about this. We laughed as we waited for a response from our fellow supporter 3,000 miles away. As it turned out, he was actually going to a Bromsgrove Sporting match that weekend. So he got to ask face to face. As it turns out, it was based on fraud, however he still didn't own up to it. It was sorta deflected, then blamed on his agent for fudging a few stats. But can we



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— Matthew Barnes-Homer

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take his word for it, and just update Wikipedia to remove the stats we know aren't accurate? Well, we tried that. And every edit was reverted back to what it was, and finally we were Globally Blocked from updating the page.

But there was one last update. If you edit anything in Wikipedia, it stores that edit. If you were do it while you are logged in, it saves not only your changes, but also the username of the person who changed it. Here's where things get interesting. Viewing all the changes to add these fake statistics, who was doing it? Well, the username was Ballerbarnes9. And what was the justification for these edits? We had justifications like "I'm Matthew Barnes homer so stop going on my page I know what's right not you" and "You stop going on my page I'm Barnes homer". I finally believe something that he has said, as I believe this was actually him, and he was the one who made all these fake changes. After over a decade of trying to figure out the answer, we finally have it.

If you go on YouTube, there's actually a surprising amount of goals and compilations of his gameplay. And here's the thing: he's actually good, like really good. From what I can gather, he's been a great, unknown lower league player who definitely has skills. While most of the online videos are pretty poor quality, shot with cell phones or apparently taken from low quality old internet videos, the quality of

play is undeniable. There are some really good goals in these compilations. So while I don't approve of what appears to me to be fraud, I can respect the actual quality of play. And some day I would actually like to watch him play. He is legitimately a legend at Macclesfield Town. In a 2013 FA Cup match, they were drawn against Cardiff, a team leading the second division Championship. That team was 81 places higher than them in the football table. Matthew Barnes-Homer pulled off a truly remarkable feat, coming from 1-0 down to score goals in the 85th and 88th minute to put Macclesfield into the next round. This was their best ever result in the FA Cup in their 139 year history. It truly is a remarkable video and I highly encourage you to watch the highlights on YouTube.

While the lies have gone deep about actual statistics, and I don't at all believe it was his agent, I do believe the reason was to start his career and pad his stats to look better to prospective teams. I'm just not sure why in this internet age someone can't just come clean and correct it, in the face of overwhelming evidence. Thankfully, we have our team's statistics accurately calculated. And they do not include Matthew Barnes-Homer.

This article also appears in a slightly modified version in the British fanzine Turnstiles. If you like content from around the world, I highly recommend checking them out and supporting them. turnstilesmagazine.bigcartel.com

- 10:01, 13 January 2020 (diff | hist) . . (-22) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 00:12, 17 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (0) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 00:11, 17 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+13) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (Needed to be done) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 00:04, 17 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (0) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (That's how tall he is) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 00:03, 17 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+11) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (This is all the right info for Matthew Barnes homer that is me) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 23:35, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (0) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (That's right information) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 23:29, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (-196) . . User talk:Barek (Needed to be done) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 23:28, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+143) . . User talk:Ballerbarnes9 (New talk section: Do one) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 23:26, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+63) . . User talk:Barek (You stop going on my page I'm Barnes homer) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
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- 23:06, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+1) . . Matthew Barnes-Homer (The number he plays in) (Tags: Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
- 22:59, 12 August 2015 (diff | hist) . . (+239) . . User talk:Mattythewhite
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